

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The twenty-ninth meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health on Friday, November 17th, Sir Wilmot P. Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Chairman of the Council), presiding.

Minutes.

On the minutes of the last meeting being presented for signature, THE CHAIRMAN said that the name of the Blackburn Union was inserted by mistake in the report of the Education Committee. It should have been the Haslington Infirmary, a training school affiliated to the Blackburn Union, thus enabling it to be recognised as a complete training school. With this correction the minutes were signed as correct.

Arising out of the minutes, MISS MACCALLUM said that when recognition was granted to the Epsom Union there was a Superintendent Nurse in charge; since then the Superintendent Nurse had resigned, and the Matron of the Workhouse had been appointed. She would like to know what were the qualifications of this lady.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP said that she could not be appointed Superintendent Nurse unless she were fully trained.

The matter was referred to the Education and Examination Committee to obtain information on the point.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE SYLLABUS OF GENERAL TRAINING.

THE CHAIRMAN said that a letter had been received from the Minister in reference to the Syllabus of Training which was before the Council. He suggested it be referred to the Education Committee for report.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that the letter dealt with a most important question, the Syllabus of General Training, which had been before the Council for months; she could see no reason why this communication from the Minister should not be read to the Council. There was a suggestion in it which proposed a means to circumvent Section (3) Sub-sections (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act, which secured to the nurses their prescribed scheme of training.

Communications from the Scottish Council had been withheld from the Council by the Registration Committee for months. The Council had a right to consider important official communications addressed to it and do its own business. A meeting of the Education Committee (at which there was not a quorum) had recommended that the Syllabus should be set on one side. That recommendation was not agreed to by the Council. She was not satisfied that the letter should be referred to the Education Committee, considering how it had dealt with the question. She moved that it be read.

THE CHAIRMAN said the motion was that the letter should be considered.

This was seconded by Miss MacCallum.

There was no discussion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is no one going to move an amendment that this letter be referred to the Education Committee?

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK: Mr. Chairman, that is not fair.

DR. GOODALL said he had not had time to read the letter and was not prepared to consider it. As a matter of business—and he had had a good deal to do with public bodies—it was not usual to discuss such a letter offhand.

MISS VILLIERS enquired whether the Council would have the opportunity of discussing the letter.

SIR JENNER VERRALL enquired whether, if the Council discussed the letter now, it would then be possible to adjourn its consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN said that Council could not discuss impromptu a difficult subject such as this without having it first thrashed out in Committee.

On being put to the vote, Mrs. Fenwick's motion that the letter from the Minister to the Council should be read, was lost.

MISS MACCALLUM called for a division, when the voting was—

For Mrs. Fenwick's motion: Miss Villiers, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Macdonald, Miss MacCallum, Miss Cattell, and Sir Jenner Verrall.

Against: Rev. C. B. Cronshaw, Miss Dowbiggin, Miss Seymour Yapp, Miss Lloyd Still, Miss E. Smith, Dr. Goodall, Dr. Bedford Pierce, Miss Coulton, Miss Sparshott, Miss Worsley, Miss Suiss and Dr. Smedley.

Not Voting: Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Steele, the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills.

MISS MACCALLUM enquired why the Minister said that if Sir Wilmot Herringham's statements were correctly reported it would appear that the Council had departed from what was originally understood to be their intention. She called for the Minute of any alteration that had been made by the Council, as she had no recollection of any change.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that the Minister did not understand what he was talking about. (Hear, hear.)

LETTER FROM SIR JAMES MICHELLI.

A letter from Sir James Michelli, Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, was then notified by the Chairman, who said that Sir James Michelli contended that in some cases nurses trained at the Seamen's Hospital in the past had a training superior to that on which other nurses were admitted to the Register, yet they were ineligible.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said they could be included under Rule 9 B, as agreed by the Council.

THE CHAIRMAN said they were not eligible under any Rule at present.

The letter was referred to the Registration Committee.

FURTHER LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR THE REGISTRAR.

THE CHAIRMAN reported a letter from the Medical Adviser of the Registrar, who recom-

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